

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR THE
Amendment to Road Right of Way for Boise Cascade
EA # OR-118-02-001

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT
GLENDALE RESOURCE AREA

Responsible Official:

Lynda L. Boody
Glendale Field Manager
BLM District Office

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Glendale Resource Area has received a request to construct, use and maintain a haul road across approximately 300 feet of O&C lands and add roadway to their existing right of way agreement, to gain access to Boise Cascade Corporation holdings in T33S., R04., Sec. 18.

1.1 Purpose and Need for the Proposal

The Glendale Resource Area proposes to grant an amendment to Right-of-Way and Road Use Agreement M-660 and O&C Logging Road Right-of-Way Permit M-660 (Serial #OR-48747-FD), originally granted in 1962. The purpose of this amendment is to facilitate hauling of timber on roads out of the area. The proposed 300 feet of new construction would be located on O&C lands not currently under a right of way agreement.

A proposal for constructing a 1900 foot road within the right-of-way agreement area was submitted to BLM by the right-of-way holder, but a more environmentally sound route was identified after field review by BLM personnel. In the revised route, no stream or wetland crossing was involved, and the slopes were stable. The distance for this BLM identified route would total approximately 815 feet.

1.2 Plan Conformance

This proposal is in conformance with the Medford District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (RMP) which notes a right-of-way objective to “Continue to make BLM-administered lands available for needed rights-of-way where consistent with local comprehensive plans, Oregon statewide planning goals and rules, and the exclusion and avoidance areas identified in this RMP” (pg 82), and “Develop and maintain a transportation system that serves the needs of users in an environmentally sound manner” (pg 84).

1.3 Decisions to be made on this Analysis

The Glendale Resource Area Field Manager will:

- 1) Select the Proposed Action or an alternative.
- 2) Determine whether the selected alternative would have significant effects or not, and whether or not to prepare an environmental impact statement. If the impacts are determined to be insignificant, then a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) can be issued and a decision can be implemented.

3) Determine whether the selected alternative is consistent with the Resource Management Plan.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE ALTERNATIVES

2.1 Proposed Action

The Glendale Resource Area proposes to amend the Right-of-Way and Road Use Agreement (M-660) and O&C Logging Road Right-of-Way Permit (M-660), Serial # OR - 48747-FD with Boise Cascade Corporation for the purpose of constructing, using, and maintaining approximately 300 feet of new road (see Map #1) and use of BLM roads from point of new construction back to the Grave Creek Road, #34-5-10 (see Map #2).

The proposed new construction would start from an existing rocked road and extend along the upper portion of the slope (see map #1). Construction of the road would take one week to complete. The equipment to be used would entail tracked tractors, graders, rollers and dump trucks. Heavy equipment would be washed before entering federal lands, to remove oils, grease, soil and plant parts. No soil would be placed by a stream. Any soils contaminated resulting from equipment failure or human error would be removed from the site and disposed of in an approved site. Road construction would involve outslowing within water dips to reduce maintenance requirements and to reduce erosion that might otherwise occur. Work would be temporarily suspended if rainstorms saturate soils to the extent that there is potential for road damage. Cutting vegetation on road fill slopes would be minimized in order to maintain slope stability. Bare soil areas would be mulched with material that is free of noxious weeds after construction has been completed. Use of power equipment within 1/4 mile of any northern spotted owl nest would be limited to the period between June 16 and February 28 or until a Glendale Resource Area biologist were to determine that young were sufficiently dispersed. This same seasonal restriction would apply to blasting within one mile of an active nest. Any proposed changes to this action during project construction would be fully analyzed, per NEPA, by the interdisciplinary team and submitted to the Field Manager for a decision prior to such activity being approved.

The following locations would be included in the amendment to OR-48774-FD and would be in perpetuity to Schedule 1 of the M-660 Agreement and Permit:

a. 33-4-4 - Segment B. Beginning in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ to the E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 17, T. 33 S., R. 4 W., Willamette Meridian, Jackson County, Oregon. This amendment is only for a Right-of-Way width of 15 feet each side of centerline of the existing road, referenced within the lands as described below

T33 S, R4 W, Sec. 17 SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

b. 33-4-9 - Segment A1. Beginning at the junction with Road No. 33-4-15.1 in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ and ending at the junction with Road No. 33-4-9.1 in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 9, T. 33 S., R. 4 W., Willamette Meridian, Jackson County, Oregon. This amendment is only for a Right-of-

Way width of 15 feet each side of centerline of the existing road, referenced within the lands as described below:

T33 S, R4 W, Sec. 9 NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$

c. 33-4-9.1 - Segment A1. Beginning at the junction with Road No. 33-4-9 in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and ending at the junction with Road No. 33-4-4 in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 9, T. 33 S., R. 4 W., Willamette Meridian, Jackson County, Oregon. This amendment is only for a Right-of-Way width of 15 feet each side of centerline of the existing road, referenced within the lands as described below:

T33 S, R4 W, Sec.9 NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

d. 33-4-15.1 - Segment B1. That portion of the road beginning at the South boundary of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 9 and ending at the junction of Road No. 33-4-9 in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, T. 33 S., R. 4 W., Willamette Meridian, Jackson County, Oregon. This amendment is only for a Right-of-Way width of 15 feet each side of centerline of the existing road, referenced within the lands as described below:

T33 S, R4 W, Sec. 9 SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$

e. 33-4-17 - Segment A. That portion of the road beginning at the junction with Road No. 33-4-4 in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 0.54 miles to the beginning of 33-4-17 Segment B in the S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 17, T. 33 S., R. 4 W., Willamette Meridian, Jackson County, Oregon. This amendment is only for a Right-of-Way width of 15 feet each side of centerline of the existing road, referenced within the lands as described below.

T33 S, R4 W, Sec.17 SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$

f. 33-4-17 - Segment B. That portion of the road to be constructed by Boise Cascade Corporation under the Reciprocal Right-of-Way Permit M-660, Supplement No. 207 from the end of Road No. 33-4-17 Segment A in the SW $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ to the West boundary line in the N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 17, T. 33 S., R. 4 W., Willamette Meridian, Jackson County Oregon. This amendment is only for a Right-of-Way width of 15 feet each side of centerline of the existing road, referenced within the lands as described below:

T33 S, R4 W, Sec.17 SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

2.2 No Action Alternative

Under this alternative, the amendment to OR-48747, Right-of-Way and Road Use Agreement (M-660) and O&C Logging Road Right-of-Way Permit (M-660) would not be granted and the road alignment originally requested under the Agreement may be constructed. The route would pass through the upper portion of a riparian area. Ditching and at least two culverts would be required, as well as grades exceeding 15% to gain access to the control point. Use of existing roads would be negotiated under a different vehicle (haul permit).

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Proposed Action

The proposed road construction project area is within the Grave Creek 5th field watershed, the Little Boulder Creek 7th field watershed and is located in T33 S, R04 W, Sec 17, SW of the NW 1/4, with elevation about 4700 feet.

The vegetative community is a mixed conifer, previously harvested stand, with a few overstory trees and dense understory of sapling and pole sized Douglas and Shasta Red firs. The ground slopes are gentle and average about 20 to 25%. Soils are shallow and cryic. The site receives early snow and has limited access for other than summer activities. The timber harvest on private land would occur within the range, as determined by Andy Robinson, USFWS, of the federally endangered *Fritillaria gentneri*. There does not, however, appear to be any habitat in the area, based on soils and elevation. The project is located outside critical habitat of the federally threatened Marbled Murrelet and is not within late-successional reserve. The proposed road would be located within Critical Habitat Unit OR-62 for the federally threatened Northern Spotted Owl. There are no known Northern Spotted Owl sites within 1/4 mile. There are no natural meadows nearby and consequently no impacts to great gray owls is expected; no nesting habitat would be removed. The habitat quality for survey and manage mollusks is poor. No mammalian tree nests were detected in the project area, nor any natural meadows nearby.

3.2 No Action Alternative

The proposed road construction project area is within the Grave Creek 5th field watershed, the Little Boulder Creek 7th field watershed and is located in T33 S, R04 W, Sec 17, N of the SW 1/4, with elevation about 4500 feet

The proposed road would be located within Critical Habitat Unit OR-62 for the federally threatened Northern Spotted Owl. This area has a high diversity of relatively unusual plants, in the serpentine wetland area. Some of the species found include *Hypericum anagalloides*, *Senecio triangularis*, *Crataegus douglasii*, and *Gaultheria ovatifolia*.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

4.1 Proposed Action

<u>Critical Element</u>	<u>Affected</u>		<u>Critical Element</u>	<u>Affected</u>	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
Air Quality	___	<u>X</u>	T & E Species	<u>X</u>	___
ACEC	___	<u>X</u>	Wastes, Hazardous/Solid	___	<u>X</u>
Cultural Resources	___	<u>X</u>	Water Quality	___	<u>X</u>
Farmlands, Prime/Unique	___	<u>X</u>	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	___	<u>X</u>
Flood plains	___	<u>X</u>	Wild & Scenic Rivers	___	<u>X</u>

Nat.Amer.Rel.Concerns ___ X
 Invasive Species ___ X

Wilderness ___ X
 Environmental Justice ___ X

Other Elements Affected
 Yes No

Special Status Species ___ X

Affected
 Yes No

Survey and Manage ___ X

T & E Species

The proposed road would be located within Critical Habitat Unit OR-62 for the federally threatened Northern Spotted Owl. The habitat is considered unsuitable at this time. Road construction equipment would produce short-term noise. This action would not occur during the critical breeding and nesting seasons of spotted owls. Therefore, impacts to spotted owls or critical habitat would be negligible.

4.2 Effects of No Action Alternative

Critical Element Affected
 Yes No
 Air Quality ___ X
 ACEC ___ X
 Cultural Resources ___ X
 Farmlands, Prime/Unique ___ X
 Flood plains ___ X
 Nat.Amer.Rel. Concerns ___ X
 Invasive Species ___ X

Other Elements Affected
 Yes No
 Special Status Species ___ X

Critical Element Affected
 Yes No
 T & E Species X ___
 Wastes, Hazardous/Solid ___ X
 Water Quality ___ X
 Wetlands/Riparian Zones X ___
 Wild & Scenic Rivers ___ X
 Wilderness ___ X
 Environmental Justice ___ X

Affected
 Yes No
 Survey and Manage X ___

Threatened or Endangered Species

The proposed road would be located within Critical Habitat Unit OR-62 for the federally threatened Northern Spotted Owl. The habitat is considered suitable. Under this alternative one acre of suitable critical habitat would be removed. In addition, road construction equipment would produce short-term noise, but not during the critical breeding and nesting seasons of spotted owls.

Wetlands/Riparian Zone

If no action is taken, the company is expected to exercise their rights under their existing right-of-way agreement, to build a road through the middle of a riparian area, effectively cutting off the water supply to the wetland. Channelization of the intercepted water would likely cause rills.

and subsequent erosional channels. Construction of the proposed road would effectively de-water the source of the spring leading to drying of a portion of the wetland.

Survey and Manage

If no action is taken, the company is expected to exercise their rights under their existing right of way agreement and build a road through the middle of a late-successional stand that has already been impacted from previous entry. Wetland habitat suitable for the survey and manage *Helminthoglypta hertleini* (Oregon shoulderband) mollusk would be disturbed. From a botanical standpoint, it would be preferable to use the newer road location, from the end of road 33-4-17.

5.0 Cumulative Effects

5.1 Proposed Action

The following actions have either occurred relatively recently or are anticipated within the foreseeable future:

- Serpents Grave timber sale - sold not not awarded.
- Poor Angora timber sale - logged in 2001
- Improve drainage and reduce erosion on approximately 60 miles of road (1995-2001)
- Regeneration timber harvest and some road use on private lands

When the effects of the Proposed Action are added to the environmental baseline and cumulative effects of the abovementioned projects within the 5th field watershed, no cumulative effects were identified.

5.2. No Action Alternative

The same projects noted in 5.1 were also used to assess cumulative effects for the No Action Alternative. No cumulative effects were identified.

V. Persons and Agencies Consulted

A legal notice will be placed in local newspapers to announce to the public that the Glendale Resource Area is requesting public comments on the proposed management action. In addition, notification of this proposal will be sent to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Oregon Dept. of Forestry, county commissioners for the affected county, several environmental groups, and representatives of the timber industry to request their comments. These announcements will be made following completion of this environmental assessment and before a decision is made. The Field Manager will consider all input before reaching a finding or making a decision concerning this proposal.

List of Preparers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Primary Responsibility</u>
Loren Wittenberg	Hydrologist	Soils/Air/Water
Marlin Pose	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife
Sherwood Tubman	Ecosystem Planner	NEPA
Diane Parry	Geologist	Quarries, Noxious Weeds
Douglas Goldenberg	Botanist	Plants and Fungi
Randal Fiske	Engineer	Layout and design
Vince Randall	Forester	Native American Concerns
Deston Russell	Engineer Tech	Hazmat
Arlene Pine	ROW Specialist	Rights-of-way

The Proposed Action has been screened for compliance with the Endangered Species Act, The American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Historic Preservation Act, Bureau of Land Management policies related to the ecosystem objectives and concepts in the Medford District Resource Management Plan (RMP) and with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy of the Northwest Forest Plan. Furthermore, this action has been screened from a landscape perspective and there are no effects anticipated from this action that would foreclose future management options in relation to the watershed management objectives identified through the Ecosystem Analysis.

Sherwood L. Tubman

Ecosystem Planner

Reviewed for format and consistency

10/26/01

Date

Lynda L. Boody

Lynda L Boody

Field Manager

Glendale Resource Area

10/26/01

Date

References

USDI-BLM. 1995. Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan. Medford, Oregon

USDA-FS, USDI-BLM. 1994. Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl. Pacific Northwest

USDA-FS, USDI-BLM. 2001. Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines. Portland, Oregon

MAP # 1



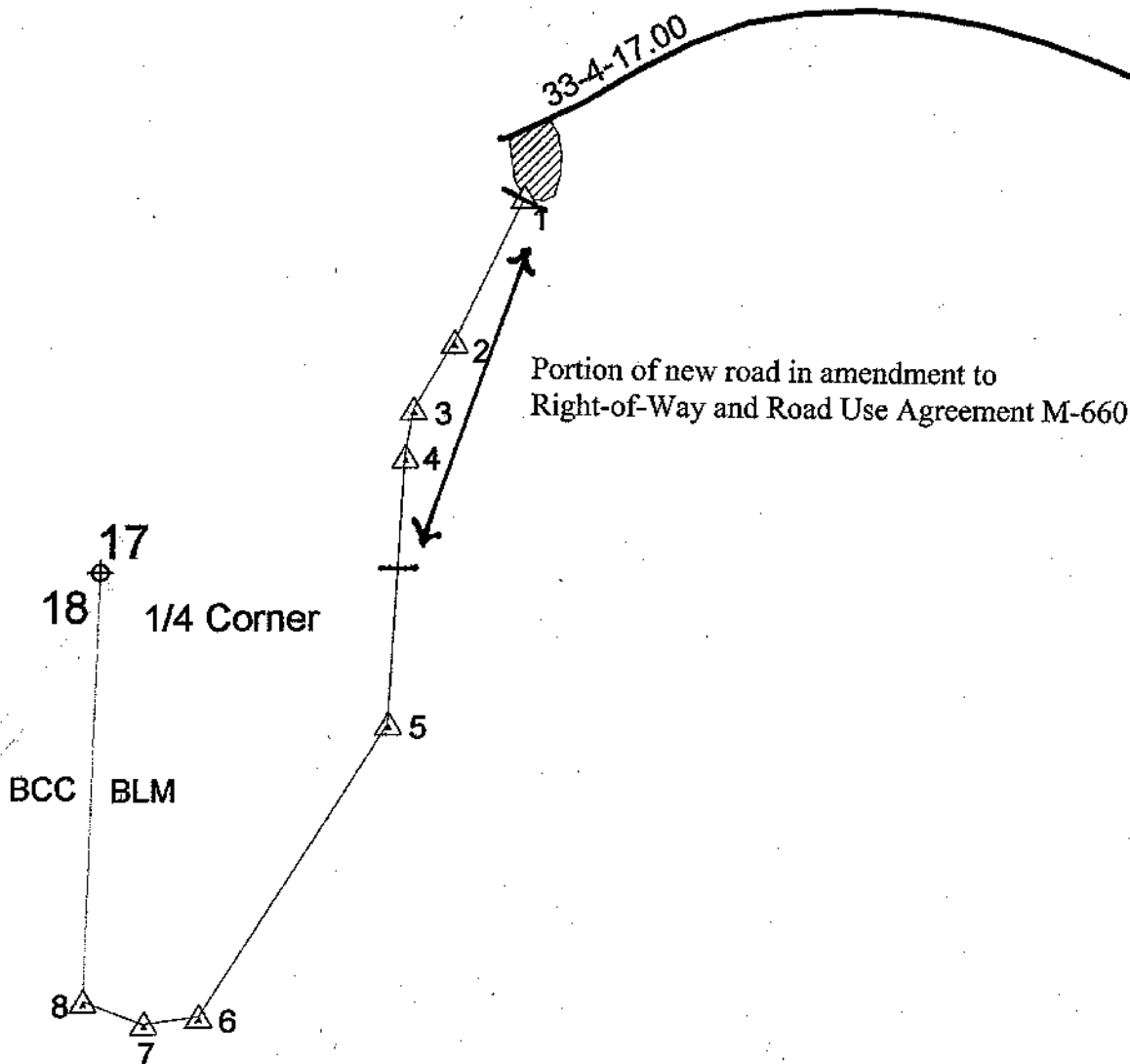
Boise Cascade

Exhibit A

R/W Agreement M-660 Crossing Plat
Section 17, 33S. 4W. WM



Scale: 1" = 150'



Legend



Existing Roads



GPS Point



Brg/Dist to Corner



Landing



Center line



Corner

Note: This is an alternate plat,
per BLM request, to the one
filed previously for this area
on 8/31/01.

Company does not warrant the accuracy or
completeness of this product. the reader is
responsible for correct use and interpretation.

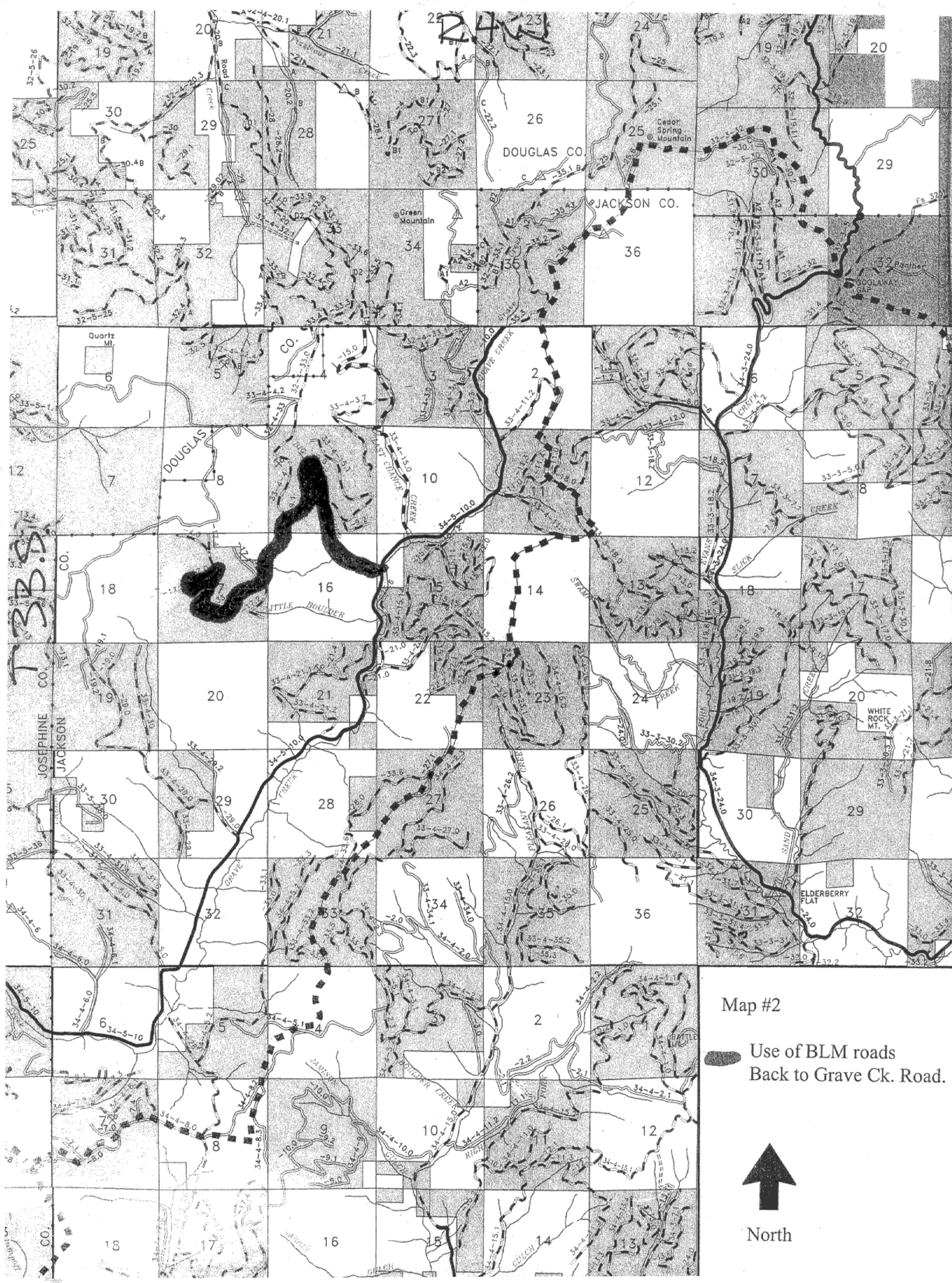
PREPARED BY:

REVISION #:

DATE:

RC

9/28/01



T 33.5

Map #2

Use of BLM roads
Back to Grave Ck. Road.



North